

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
FINAL STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR REGULATORY ACTION

Amend Section 502
Title 14, California Code of Regulations
Re: Waterfowl, Migratory; American Coot; and Common Moorhen (Common Gallinule)

- I. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: April 17, 2010
- II. Date of Pre-adoption Statement of Reasons: July 29, 2010
- III. Date of Final Statement of Reasons: August 23, 2010
- IV. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings:
 - (a) Notice Hearing:

Date:	May 5, 2010
Location:	Stockton, CA
 - (b) Discussion Hearing:

Date:	June 24, 2010
Location:	Folsom, CA
 - (c) Adoption Hearing:

Date:	August 18, 2010
Location:	Sacramento, CA
- V. Update: The originally proposed language contained a range of season lengths and daily bag limits which are modified to identify specific season lengths and daily bag limits. There are two additional changes: 1) the Small Canada goose daily bag limit in the Northeastern Zone is recommended to be 1 per day rather than the range of 2 – 6 per day that was proposed; and 2) the Balance of State Brant Special Management Area is recommended to open the second Saturday in November rather than the proposed opening date of November 7.

The originally proposed regulatory language contained a range of season lengths and daily bag limits which were contingent upon the establishment of Federal framework regulations. These frameworks were established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in late July and now specify the maximum season lengths and daily bag limits. The additional changes were made because 1) the recommended change in bag limit for Small Canada geese in the Northeastern Zone was removed because the Pacific Flyway Council did not consider the change; and 2) public comments indicated a preference for the existing regulation in the Balance of State Brant Special Management Area.

A correction was made to the regulatory text in subsection 502(d)(5)(C). A change was proposed to clarify the text in this subsection, but the word “not” was inadvertently omitted. This change to the final regulatory text matches what was

described in the notice.

At its August 18, 2010 meeting, the Commission adopted the following season lengths, dates, and daily bag limits:

Summary of Proposed Waterfowl Hunting Regulations			
AREA	SPECIES	SEASONS	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
<i>All Zones</i>	Coots & Moorhens	Concurrent w/duck season	25/day. 25 in possession
<i>Northeastern Zone</i>	Ducks	Oct 9 – Jan 21	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards but no more than 2 females, 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Scaup	Oct 9 – Jan 2	
	Geese	Oct 9 – Jan 16	8/ day, which may include: 6 white geese, 6 dark geese no more than 4 white-fronts, 2 Large Canada geese, 1 Small Canada goose. Possession limit double the daily bag.
<i>Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone</i>	Ducks	Oct 9 – Oct 31 and Nov 13 – Jan 30	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females, 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Scaup	Nov 13 – Jan 30	
	Geese	Oct 23 – Jan 30	8/ day, which may include: 6 white geese, 6 dark geese no more than 4 white-fronted geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.
<i>Colorado River Zone</i>	Ducks	Oct 22 – Jan 30	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 hen mallards or Mexican-like ducks, 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Scaup	Nov 6 – Jan 30	
	Geese	Oct 22 – Jan 30	6/ day, up to 6 white geese, up to 3 dark geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.
<i>Southern California Zone</i>	Ducks	Oct 23 – Jan 30	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females, 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Scaup	Nov 6 – Jan 30	
	Geese	Oct 23 – Jan 30	8/day, up to 6 white geese, up to 3 dark geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.
<i>Balance of State Zone</i>	Ducks	Oct 23 – Jan 30	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females, 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Scaup	Nov 6 – Jan 30	
	Geese	Oct 23 – Jan 30	8/ day, which may include: 6 white geese, 6 dark geese no more than 4 white-fronted geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Large Canada Geese	Oct 2 – Oct 6 and Oct 23 – Jan 30	

Summary of Proposed Waterfowl Hunting Regulations, Continued

SPECIAL AREA	SPECIES	SEASON	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
<i>North Coast</i>	All Canada Geese	Nov 6 – Jan 30 and Feb 20 – Mar 10; except Large Canada geese which cannot be taken beyond Jan 30	6/day, only 1 may be a Large Canada goose. Possession limit double the daily bag.
<i>Humboldt Bay South Spit</i>	All species	Closed during brant season	
<i>Sacramento Valley</i>	White-fronted geese	Oct 23 – Dec 14	2/day. Possession limit double the daily bag.
<i>Morro Bay</i>	All species	Open in designated areas only	Waterfowl season opens concurrently with brant season.
<i>Martis Creek Lake</i>	All species	Closed until Nov 16	
<i>Northern Brant</i>	Black Brant	Nov 7 – Dec 6	2/day. Possession limit double the daily bag.
<i>Balance of State Brant</i>	Black Brant	Nov 13 – Dec 12	2/day. Possession limit double the daily bag.
<i>Imperial County</i>	White Geese	Nov 6 – Jan 30 and Feb 12 – Feb 27	6/day. Possession limit double the daily bag.
YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS	SPECIES	SEASON	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
<i>Northeastern Zone</i>	Same as regular season	Sept 25 – 26	Same as regular season
<i>Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone</i>		Feb 5 – 6	
<i>Southern California Zone</i>		Feb 5 – 6	
<i>Colorado River Zone</i>		Feb 5 – 6	
<i>Balance of State Zone</i>		Feb 5 – 6	
FALCONRY OF DUCKS	SPECIES	SEASON	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
<i>Northeastern Zone</i>	Same as regular season	Oct 9 – Jan 21	3/ day, possession limit 6
<i>Balance of State Zone</i>		Oct 23 – Feb 6	
<i>Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone</i>		Oct 9 – Oct 31 and Nov 13 – Feb 2	
<i>Southern California Zone</i>		Oct 23 – Feb 6	
<i>Colorado River Zone</i>	Ducks only	Oct 22 – Feb 3	

VI. Summary of Public Recommendations and Primary Considerations Raised in Support of and in Opposition to the Proposed Action and Reasons for Rejecting Those Considerations:

- (a) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends Canada geese and migratory wildlife be protected when landing in California, specifically at city parks and golf courses.

Proposal Source: Shari Welsh (email 1/4/2010)

Response: Migratory Birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act; however, hazing can occur where migratory birds are causing damage. In addition, most city parks and golf courses occur within city limits, where regulated hunting is not normally allowed. Existing regulations in Section 503 were adopted by the Commission to address nuisance and resident Canada geese

- (b) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends hunting in Lower Novato Creek be reduced significantly and quotas (bag limits) lowered to curtail the excessive hunting in Novato Creek.

Proposal Source: Edward Mainland, Sustainable Novato (email 2/5/2010)

Response: Hunting in Lower Novato Creek is consistent with the conservation of wildlife and the provision of recreational opportunity. Bag limit changes alone, unless substantial, will not reduce harvest by a measurable level because most hunters do not achieve the daily bag limit during each day's hunt. DFG Enforcement has been notified of the hunter activity in this area. The Commission adopted the Department's recommendation on bag limits.

- (c) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends waterfowl hunting in the Balance of State Zone open no earlier than October 25, or weekend closest to October 25, and close no later than January 15. Waterfowl are just starting to migrate in late October and by mid January ducks seem to be gone from Balance of State Zone.

Proposal Source: John Bennhoff (email 1/30/2010)

Response: The Department recommended the Balance of State duck season to open October 23 and close January 30. The Federal Frameworks allow for a 107-day season. Duck season frameworks in the Pacific Flyway are established based on the best available science which suggests that this season length and bag limits are the optimal choice for 2010. Additionally, many areas that are flooded for hunting and wildlife

habitat will use agricultural drain water that will be available in September. These areas will be flooded early regardless of season opening dates. Many ducks, including pintail arrive in early to late September in the Sacramento Valley. The Commission adopted the Department's recommendation.

- (d) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends a split season for ducks in the Balance of State zone and extending hunting season into the first week in February.

Proposal Source: Leonard Ackerman (email 2/3/2010)

Response: The Department recommended to open the Balance of the State Zone on the fourth Saturday in October extending for 100 days. The Federal Frameworks allow for a 107-day season. Duck season frameworks in the Pacific Flyway are established based on the best available science which suggests that this season length and bag limits are the optimal choice for 2010. The Federal Frameworks do not allow hunting beyond the last Sunday in January. The Commission adopted the Department's recommendation.

- (e) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends the duck daily bag limit remain at 7 per day with no more than 5 mallards or 2 hen mallards, 2 pintail and the season to open the third Saturday in October extending for 90 days or a split season extending for 80 days in the Balance of State zone.

Proposal Source: Ron Ricci (email 2/8/2010)

Response: The Department recommended a duck daily bag limit of 7, no more than 7 mallards or 2 hen mallards. The recommended opening date is the fourth Saturday in October extending for 100 days. The Federal Frameworks allow for a 107-day season with a 7 duck daily bag limit, including no more than 7 mallards or 2 hen mallards. Duck season frameworks in the Pacific Flyway are established based on the best available science which suggests that this combination of season length and bag limit is the optimal choice for 2010. Additionally, bag limit changes alone, unless substantial, will not reduce harvest by a measurable level because most hunters do not achieve the daily bag limit during each day's hunt, thus a reduction in the daily limit, without a reduction in season length, will not significantly change mallard harvest. The Federal frameworks allow 2 pintail per day. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service developed a harvest strategy for pintails that specifies pintail daily bag limits. The Commission adopted the Department's recommendation.

- (f) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends an early Canada goose season in the Balance of State Zone for 5 -7 days in September or first week of October.

Proposal Source: George Kammerer (email 2/8/2010)

Response: The Department recommended Large Canada geese in the Balance of State Zone to open the first Saturday in October extending for 5 days. The Commission adopted the Department's recommendation.

- (g) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends the youth waterfowl hunting days to allow youth up to 18 years of age to participate.

Proposal Source: George Kammerer (email 2/9/2010)

Response: Federal regulations require that youth hunters must be 15 years of age or younger.

- (h) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends the mallard daily bag limit of 4 or 5 and no more than 1 hen mallard.

Proposal Source: Latigo Hext (email 2/11/2010 and public scoping session 2/11/2010)

Response: The Commission adopted the Department's recommendation. Duck season frameworks in the Pacific Flyway are established based on the best available science which suggests a 7 duck daily bag limit including no more than 7 mallards and 2 hen mallards. This daily bag limit, combined with the season length, is the optimal choice for 2010. Additionally, bag limit changes alone, unless substantial, will not reduce harvest by a measurable level because most hunters do not achieve the daily bag limit during each day's hunt, thus a reduction in the daily limit, without a reduction in season length, will not significantly change mallard harvest.

- (i) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends eliminating the Northeastern Zone and combining with the Balance of State Zone but to keep Tule Lake NWR separate.

Proposal Source: Les Kofoed (email 2/15/2010)

Response: The Commission adopted the Department's recommendation of no change to Waterfowl Hunt Zones. Waterfowl hunting zones are defined in the Federal regulations and any modifications to zones require the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approval. These modifications must comply with guidelines that would require a complete statewide

modification of all zoning in California if this proposal was accepted. This is because the existing criteria allow California to maintain its existing zones, and make small (less than a county) changes to these zone boundaries. To make a larger change as proposed here, would require California to revert to guidelines that would allow no more than 3 zones in California, which would not meet the needs of the majority of waterfowl hunters. Lastly, requests for modifying zones need to occur in an open cycle year of the federal process and the current year is not open for modifications.

- (j) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends the Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone open October 9 through October 31 and reopen November 13 through January 30.

Proposal Source: Arthur Spaulding of Tulare Basin Wetlands Association (letter dated 6/18/2010)

Response: This season length fits within the Federal frameworks and is the Department's recommendation. Federal regulations require the general goose season in the Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone match that of the Balance of State Zone. The Commission adopted the Department's recommendation.

- (k) Description of Proposed Action by Public: In support of Department's recommendation but concerned about confusion of brant season dates.

Proposal Source: Bill Gaines of California Outdoor Heritage Alliance (public testimony 5/5/10 and 6/24/2010)

Response: Support noted.

- (l) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Complimented Dan Yparraguirre, Melanie Weaver and Shaun Oldenburger of the Waterfowl Program.

Proposal Source: Jim Waters (public testimony 6/24/2010 and 8/18/10)

Response: Support noted.

- (m) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends 1) a fixed opening date for Brant on the Northcoast (November 7); 2) an early Canada goose season in the Balance of State Zone; and 3) the Greater White-fronted goose season to be lengthened by 2 weeks in the Sacramento Valley Special Management Area.

Proposal Source: Greg Yarris, California Waterfowl Association (public comment and letter 2/11/2010)

Recommendation: The Department recommended the Northern Brant Special Management Area to open November 7 and a split season for Large Canada geese in the Balance of State Zone, specifically to open for 5 days on the first Saturday in October. Increasing the season length in the Sacramento Valley Special Management Area is not allowed at this time as stipulated in the Federal Frameworks. The Department is conducting studies to assess the status of Tule White-fronted geese, the intended beneficiary of the shorter white-fronted goose season in the Sacramento Valley Special Management Area. That goose population is currently believed to be quite small in comparison to the Pacific White-fronted goose population, which is quite numerous. The Commission adopted the Department's recommendation.

- (n) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends the Northern Brant Special Management Area open November 7 and the Balance of State Brant Special Management Area to open the second Saturday in November.

Proposal Source: Greg Yarris, California Waterfowl Association (letter dated 7/14/2010, emailed on 7/15/2010)

Response: This season length fits within the Federal frameworks and is the Department's recommendation. The Commission adopted this recommendation.

- (o) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends the elimination of the three-shell maximum in a shotgun and double the amount of shotgun shells while using a shotgun to take waterfowl, statewide.

Proposal Source: Joe Regoli (email 10/16/2009)

Response: This comment does not pertain to the proposed regulatory action considered in Title 14 Section 502. The 25 shotgun shell limit is in the Department's public hunt area regulations which are not currently open for modification and the three-shell limit or plugged shotgun is a federal regulation.

- (p) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends the prohibition of hunting of waterfowl in the Mojave National Preserve.

Proposal Source: Center for Biological Diversity, et al (email 11/09/09)

Response: This comment does not pertain to the proposed regulatory action considered in Title 14 Section 502. Waterfowl hunting is not offered in the Mojave National Preserve according to the National Park Service website

(http://www.nps.gov/moja/planyourvisit/upload/Hunting_SB_NoBl.7.19.LOW-2.pdf). The Mojave National Preserve is owned and managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

- (q) Description of Proposed Action by Public: In support of the Department's recommendation.

Proposal Source: Jim Waters, California Waterfowl Association (public testimony 08/18/10)
Bill Gaines, California Outdoor Heritage Alliance (public testimony 08/18/10)

Response: Support Noted.

VII. Location and Index of Rulemaking File:

A rulemaking file with attached index is maintained at:
California Fish and Game Commission
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

VIII. Location of Department files:

Department of Fish and Game
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

IX. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action:

- (a) Alternatives to Regulatory Action:
No other alternatives were identified.
- (b) No Change Alternative:
1. The No Change Alternative would not increase the Large Canada goose season to 105 days (split) in the Balance of State Zone. Not increasing the season length and splitting into two segments for Large Canada geese does not provide for maximum hunting opportunity consistent with the status of Large Canada geese and does not work towards alleviating the resident nuisance Canada goose depredation issues.
 2. The No Change Alternative would keep the existing Small Canada goose daily bag limit of 1 in the Northeastern Zone. Continuing with the current goose daily bag limit in the Northeastern Zone does not provide for hunting opportunity consistent with the status

of Small Canada geese or simplified regulations. **The no change alternative for the bag limit for Small Canada geese in the Northeastern Zone was adopted by the Commission because the Pacific Flyway Council did not consider the change.**

3. The No Change Alternative would keep the existing opening dates in the Northern Brant and Balance of State Brant Special Management Areas. Continuing with the current opening dates does not simplify the regulations or provide for hunting opportunity.
4. The No Change Alternative would keep the existing season lengths and dates, and duck and goose daily bag limits in all zones. The California Breeding Pair Survey has not been completed and analyzed and the federal frameworks have not been set. Changes in the existing regulations could result if specific dates and bag limits are proposed before the above items are completed.

- (c) Consideration of Alternatives: In view of information currently possessed, no reasonable alternative considered would be more effective in carrying out the purposes for which the regulation is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to the affected private persons than the proposed regulation.

X. Impact of Regulatory Action:

The potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the proposed regulatory action has been assessed, and the following determinations relative to the required statutory categories have been made:

- (a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Businesses, Including the Ability of California Businesses to Compete with Businesses in Other States:

The proposed action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. The proposed regulations are intended to provide additional recreational opportunity to the public. The response is expected to be minor in nature.

- (b) Impact on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California: None.

- (c) Cost Impacts on a Representative Private Person or Business:

The agency is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with

the proposed action.

- (d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State: None.
- (e) Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies: None.
- (f) Programs mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts: None.
- (g) Costs Imposed on Any Local Agency or School District that is Required to be Reimbursed Under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4, Government Code: None.
- (h) Effect on Housing Costs: None.

Updated Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

Current regulations in Section 502, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), provide definitions, hunting zone descriptions, season opening and closing dates, and establish daily bag and possession limits. In addition to the four proposals contained herein, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), after analysis of waterfowl population survey and other data, may change federal regulations; if this occurs, changes in existing and proposed regulations in California may be necessary. Changes in federal regulations for season opening and closing dates, elimination or creation of special management areas, season length, and daily bag limits for migratory birds may occur. Items 1 and 2 require changes in the federal regulations and must be approved by the Pacific Flyway Council at its meeting on July 23, 2010. Item 4 (including the table below) provides a proposed range of season dates and bag limits for waterfowl. The Service will consider recommendations from the Flyway Council at their meeting on July 29, 2010. At this time, the California Waterfowl Breeding Population Survey has not been conducted and the Service has not established federal regulation "frameworks" which will occur in August after the analysis of current waterfowl population survey, other data, input from the Flyway Councils and the public. Also, minor editorial changes are proposed to clarify and simplify the regulations and to comply with existing federal frameworks.

The Department's proposals are as follows:

1. Increase the season length to 105 days for Large Canada geese in the Balance of State Zone, excluding the North Coast Special Management Area, and split the season into two segments.
2. Increase the Small Canada goose daily bag limit to 2-6 per day in the Northeastern Zone. **This proposal was not considered by the Pacific Flyway Council.**
3. Open the Northern Brant and Balance of State Brant Special Management Areas on November 7. **The recommended opening date for the Balance of State Brant Special Management Area was removed based on public comments.**
4. Provide a range of waterfowl hunting season lengths (which may be split into two segments) between 38 and 107 days (including 2 youth waterfowl hunt days) for all hunting methods. A range of daily bag limits is also given for ducks in all zones. Federal regulations require that California's hunting regulations conform to those of Arizona in the Colorado River Zone. See table below for season and bag limit ranges.

The following table has been amended from the version in the Initial Statement of Reasons to reflect the Department's regulation recommendations consistent with the Federal frameworks as established July 29, 2010. Federal frameworks allow general duck seasons to be as long as 107 days in the Pacific Flyway with a 7-bird daily duck bag limit (including mallards); that the pintail season could be as long as the general duck season with a 2-bird bag

limit; that the canvasback season could be as long as the general duck season with a 1-bird bag limit; that the scaup season could be 86 days with a 3-bird daily bag limit; and that the increase to a 105 day season for Large Canada geese in the Balance of State Zone was accepted.

Two changes from the Initial Statement are incorporated herein relative to season length and bag limits:

1. The recommended change in bag limit for Small Canada geese in the Northeastern Zone was not considered by the Pacific Flyway Council.
2. Public comments indicated a preference for the existing opening date in the Balance of State Brant Special Management Area.

In addition, a correction was made to the regulatory text in subsection 502(d)(5)(C). A change was proposed to clarify the text in this subsection, but the word "not" was inadvertently omitted. This change to the final regulatory text matches what was described in the notice.

The Commission adopted minor editorial changes to clarify the regulations and the following specific regulations at the August 18, 2010 meeting.

Summary of Proposed Waterfowl Hunting Regulations

AREA	SPECIES	SEASONS	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
<i>All Zones</i>	Coots & Moorhens	Concurrent w/duck season	25/day. 25 in possession
<i>Northeastern Zone</i>	Ducks	Oct 9 – Jan 21	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards but no more than 2 females, 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Scaup	Oct 9 – Jan 2	
	Geese	Oct 9 – Jan 16	8/ day, which may include: 6 white geese, 6 dark geese no more than 4 white-fronts, 2 Large Canada geese, 1 Small Canada goose. Possession limit double the daily bag.
<i>Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone</i>	Ducks	Oct 9 – Oct 31 and Nov 13 – Jan 30	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females, 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Scaup	Nov 13 – Jan 30	
	Geese	Oct 23 – Jan 30	8/ day, which may include: 6 white geese, 6 dark geese no more than 4 white-fronted geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.
<i>Colorado River Zone</i>	Ducks	Oct 22 – Jan 30	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 hen mallards or Mexican-like ducks, 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Scaup	Nov 6 – Jan 30	
	Geese	Oct 22 – Jan 30	6/ day, up to 6 white geese, up to 3 dark geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.
<i>Southern California Zone</i>	Ducks	Oct 23 – Jan 30	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females, 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Scaup	Nov 6 – Jan 30	
	Geese	Oct 23 – Jan 30	8/day, up to 6 white geese, up to 3 dark geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.
<i>Balance of State Zone</i>	Ducks	Oct 23 – Jan 30	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females, 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Scaup	Nov 6 – Jan 30	
	Geese	Oct 23 – Jan 30	8/ day, which may include: 6 white geese, 6 dark geese no more than 4 white-fronted geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Large Canada Geese	Oct 2 – Oct 6 and Oct 23 – Jan 30	

Summary of Proposed Waterfowl Hunting Regulations, Continued

SPECIAL AREA	SPECIES	SEASON	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
<i>North Coast</i>	All Canada Geese	Nov 6 – Jan 30 and Feb 20 – Mar 10; except Large Canada geese which cannot be taken beyond Jan 30	6/day, only 1 may be a Large Canada goose. Possession limit double the daily bag.
<i>Humboldt Bay South Spit</i>	All species	Closed during brant season	
<i>Sacramento Valley</i>	White-fronted geese	Oct 23 – Dec 14	2/day. Possession limit double the daily bag.
<i>Morro Bay</i>	All species	Open in designated areas only	Waterfowl season opens concurrently with brant season.
<i>Martis Creek Lake</i>	All species	Closed until Nov 16	
<i>Northern Brant</i>	Black Brant	Nov 7 – Dec 6	2/day. Possession limit double the daily bag.
<i>Balance of State Brant</i>	Black Brant	Nov 13 – Dec 12	2/day. Possession limit double the daily bag.
<i>Imperial County</i>	White Geese	Nov 6 – Jan 30 and Feb 12 – Feb 27	6/day. Possession limit double the daily bag.
YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS	SPECIES	SEASON	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
<i>Northeastern Zone</i>	Same as regular season	Sept 25 – 26	Same as regular season
<i>Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone</i>		Feb 5 – 6	
<i>Southern California Zone</i>		Feb 5 – 6	
<i>Colorado River Zone</i>		Feb 5 – 6	
<i>Balance of State Zone</i>		Feb 5 – 6	
FALCONRY OF DUCKS	SPECIES	SEASON	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
<i>Northeastern Zone</i>	Same as regular season	Oct 9 – Jan 21	3/ day, possession limit 6
<i>Balance of State Zone</i>		Oct 23 – Feb 6	
<i>Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone</i>		Oct 9 – Oct 31 and Nov 13 – Feb 2	
<i>Southern California Zone</i>		Oct 23 – Feb 6	
<i>Colorado River Zone</i>	Ducks only	Oct 22 – Feb 3	

Section 502, Title 14, CCR is amended to read:

§502. Waterfowl, Migratory; American Coot and Common Moorhen (Common Gallinule).

(a) Definitions.

(1) Dark geese. Dark geese include Canada geese, cackling geese, Aleutian geese and white-fronted geese ("specklebelly").

(2) Large Canada geese. Large Canada geese include western Canada geese ("honker") and lesser Canada geese ("lessers").

(3) Small Canada geese. Small (about the size of a mallard) Canada geese include cackling geese and Aleutian geese. Both are white-cheeked geese nearly identical in appearance to Large Canada geese. Aleutian geese have a thin white neck ring and Cackling geese have dark breasts. Both species have a high-pitched cackle as opposed to the deeper "honking".

(4) White geese. White geese include Ross' geese and snow geese.

(b) Waterfowl Hunting Zones.

(1) Northeastern California Zone: In that portion of California lying east and north of a line beginning at the intersection of Interstate 5 with the California-Oregon state line; south along Interstate 5 to its junction with Walters Lane south of the town of Yreka; west along Walters Lane to its junction with Easy Street; south along Easy Street to the junction with Old Highway 99; south along Old Highway 99 to the point of intersection with Interstate 5 north of the town of Weed; south along Interstate 5 to its junction with Highway 89; east and south along Highway 89 to Main Street in Greenville; north and east to its junction with North Valley Road; south to its junction of Diamond Mountain Road; north and east to its junction with North Arm Road; south and west to the junction of North Valley Road; south to the junction with Arlington Road (A22); west to the junction of Highway 89; south and west to the junction of Highway 70; east on Highway 70 to Highway 395; south and east on Highway 395 to the point of intersection with the California-Nevada state line; north along the California-Nevada state line to the junction of the California-Nevada-Oregon state lines west along the California-Oregon state line to the point of origin.

(2) Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone: All of Kings and Tulare counties and that portion of Kern County north of the Southern California Zone.

(3) Southern California Zone: In that portion of southern California (but excluding the Colorado River zone) lying south and east of a line beginning at the mouth of the Santa Maria River at the Pacific Ocean; east along the Santa Maria River to where it crosses Highway 166 near the City of Santa Maria; east on Highway 166 to the junction with Highway 99; south on Highway 99 to the crest of the Tehachapi Mountains at Tejon Pass; east and north along the crest of the Tehachapi Mountains to where it intersects Highway 178 at Walker Pass; east on Highway 178 to the junction of Highway 395 at the town of Inyokern; south on Highway 395 to the junction of Highway 58; east on Highway 58 to the junction of Interstate 15; east on Interstate 15 to the junction with Highway 127; north on Highway 127 to the point of intersection with the California-Nevada state line.

(4) Colorado River Zone: In those portions of San Bernardino, Riverside, and Imperial counties lying east of the following lines: Beginning at the intersection of Highway 95 with the California-Nevada state line; south along Highway 95 to Vidal Junction; south through the town of Rice to the San Bernardino-Riverside county line on a road known

as "Aqueduct Road" in San Bernardino County; south from the San Bernardino-Riverside county line on road known in Riverside County as the "Desert Center to Rice Road" to the town of Desert Center; east 31 miles on Interstate 10 to its intersection with the Wiley Well Road; south on this road to Wiley Well; southeast along the Army-Milpitas Road to the Blythe, Brawley, Davis Lake intersections; south on the Blythe-Brawley paved road to its intersection with the Ogilby and Tumco Mine Road; south on this road to Highway 80; east seven miles on Highway 80 to its intersection with the Andrade-Algodones Road; south on this paved road to the intersection of the Mexican boundary line at Algodones, Mexico.

(5) Balance of State Zone: That portion of the state not included in Northeastern California, Southern California, Colorado River or the Southern San Joaquin Valley zones.

(A) Special Management Areas

1. North Coast. All of Del Norte and Humboldt counties.

2. Humboldt Bay South Spit. Beginning at the intersection of the north boundary of Table Bluff County Park and the South Jetty Road; north along the South Jetty Road to the South Jetty; west along the South Jetty to the mean low water line of the Pacific Ocean; south along the mean low water line to its intersection with the north boundary of the Table Bluff County Park; east along the north boundary of the Table Bluff County Park to the point of origin.

3. Sacramento Valley. Beginning at the town of Willows; south on Interstate 5 to the junction with Hahn Road; east on Hahn Road and the Grimes-Arbuckle Road to the town of Grimes; north on Highway 45 to its junction with Highway 162; north on Highway 45-162 to the town of Glenn; west on Highway 162 to the point of beginning.

4. Morro Bay. Beginning at a point where the high tide line intersects the State Park boundary west of Cuesta by the Sea; northeasterly to a point 200 yards offshore of the high tide line at the end of Mitchell Drive in Baywood Park; northeasterly to a point 200 yards offshore of the high tide line west of the Morro Bay State Park Boundary, adjacent to Baywood Park; north to a point 300 yards south of the high tide line at the end of White Point; north along a line 400 yards offshore of the south boundary of the Morro Bay City limit to a point adjacent to Fairbanks Point; northwesterly to the high tide line on the sand spit; southerly along the high tide line of the sand spit to the south end of Morro Bay; easterly along the Park boundary at the high tide line to the beginning point.

5. Martis Creek Lake. The waters and shoreline of Martis Creek Lake, Placer and Nevada counties.

6. Northern Brant. Del Norte, Humboldt and Mendocino counties.

7. Balance of State Brant. That portion of the state not included in the Northern Brant Special Management Area.

8. Imperial County. Beginning at Highway 86 and the Navy Test Base Road; south on Highway 86 to the town of Westmoreland; continue through the town of Westmoreland to Route S26; east on Route S26 to Highway 115; north on Highway 115 to Weist Rd.; north on Weist Rd. to Flowing Wells Rd.; northeast on Flowing Wells Rd. to the Coachella Canal; northwest on the Coachella Canal to Drop 18; a straight line from Drop 18 to Frink Rd.; south on Frink Rd. to Highway 111; north on Highway 111 to Niland Marina Rd.; southwest on Niland Marina Rd. to the old Imperial County boat ramp and the water line of the Salton Sea; from the water line of the Salton Sea, a straight line across the Salton Sea to the Salinity Control Research Facility and the

Navy Test Base Road; southwest on the Navy Test Base Road to the point of beginning.

(c) Statewide Seasons and Bag and Possession Limits for American Coots, and Common Moorhens.

<i>(1) Species</i>	<i>(2) Season</i>	<i>(3) Daily Bag and Possession Limits</i>
American Coot and Common Moorhen	Concurrent with duck season(s)	25 per day, 25 in possession, either all of one species or a mixture of these species.

(d) Seasons and Bag and Possession Limits for Ducks and Geese by Zone.

(1) Northeastern California Zone (NOTE: SEE SUBSECTION (5)(D) BELOW FOR SPECIAL SEASONS AND CLOSURES.)

<i>(A) Species</i>	<i>(B) Season</i>	<i>(C) Daily Bag and Possession Limits</i>
Ducks (including Mergansers)	<p>From the second Saturday in October extending for 105 days.</p> <p>Scaup: From the second Saturday in October extending for 86 days.</p>	<p>Daily bag limit: 7.</p> <p>Daily bag limit may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 mallards, but not more than 2 females. • 2 pintail (either sex). • 1 canvasback (either sex). • 2 redheads (either sex). • 3 scaup (either sex). <p>Possession limit: double the daily bag limit.</p>

Geese	From the second Saturday in October extending for 100 days.	<p>Daily bag limit: 8 Daily bag limit may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 white geese. • 6 dark geese <u>but not more than which may</u> include 4 white-fronted geese, 2 Large Canada geese, and 1 Small Canada goose (see definitions: 502(a)). <p>Possession limit: double the daily bag limit.</p>
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(2) Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone (NOTE: SEE SUBSECTION (5)(D) BELOW FOR SPECIAL SEASONS AND CLOSURES.)

(A) Species	(B) Season	(C) Daily Bag and Possession Limits
Ducks (including Mergansers)	<p>A split season from the second Saturday in October extending for a period of 23 days and from the second Saturday in November extending for a period of 79 days.</p> <p>Scaup: From the second Saturday in November extending for 79 days.</p>	<p>Daily bag limit: 7 Daily bag limit may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 mallards, but not more than 2 females. • 2 pintail (either sex). • 1 canvasback (either sex). • 2 redheads (either sex). • 3 scaup (either sex). <p>Possession limit: double the daily bag limit.</p>
Geese	From the fourth Saturday in October extending for 100 days.	<p>Daily bag limit: 8 Daily bag limit may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 white geese. • 6 dark geese <u>but not more than which may</u> include 4 white-fronted geese (see definitions: 502(a)). <p>Possession limit: double the daily bag limit.</p>

(3) Southern California Zone (NOTE: SEE SUBSECTION (5)(D) BELOW FOR

SPECIAL SEASONS AND CLOSURES.)

(A) Species	(B) Season	(C) Daily Bag and Possession Limits
Ducks (including Mergansers)	<p>From the fourth Saturday in October extending for 100 days.</p> <p>Scaup: From the first Saturday in November extending for 86 days.</p>	<p>Daily bag limit: 7 Daily bag limit may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 mallards, but not more than 2 females. • 2 pintail (either sex). • 1 canvasback (either sex). • 2 redheads (either sex). • 3 scaup (either sex). <p>Possession limit: double the daily bag limit.</p>
Geese	From the fourth Saturday in October extending for 100 days.	<p>Daily bag limit: 8</p> <p>Daily bag limit may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 white geese. • 3 dark geese (see definitions: 502(a)). <p>Possession limit: double the daily bag limit.</p>

(4) Colorado River Zone (NOTE: SEE SUBSECTION (5)(D) BELOW FOR SPECIAL SEASONS AND CLOSURES.)

(A) Species	(B) Season	(C) Daily Bag and Possession Limits
Ducks (including Mergansers).	<p>From the Friday after the third Sunday in October extending for 101 days.</p> <p>Scaup: From the first Saturday in November extending for 86 days.</p>	<p>Daily bag limit: 7 Daily bag limit may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 mallards, but not more than 2 females or Mexican-like ducks. • 2 pintail (either sex). • 1 canvasback (either sex). • 2 redheads (either sex). • 3 scaup (either sex). <p>Possession limit: double the daily bag limit.</p>

Geese	From October 23 ²² extending for 101 days.	<p>Daily bag limit: 6 Daily bag limit may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 white geese. • 3 dark geese (see definitions: 502(a)). <p>Possession limit: double the daily bag limit.</p>
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(5) Balance of State Zone (NOTE: SEE SUBSECTION (D) BELOW FOR SPECIAL SEASONS AND CLOSURES.)

(A) Species	(B) Season	(C) Daily Bag and Possession Limits
Ducks (including Mergansers).	<p>From the fourth Saturday in October extending for 100 days.</p> <p>Scaup: From the first Saturday in November extending for 86 days.</p>	<p>Daily bag limit: 7 Daily bag limit may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 mallards, but not more than 2 females. • 2 pintail (either sex). • 1 canvasback (either sex). • 2 redheads (either sex). • 3 scaup (either sex). <p>Possession limit: double the daily bag limit.</p>

Geese	<p>From the fourth Saturday in October extending for 100 days EXCEPT in the Sacramento Valley Special Management Area where the white-fronted goose season will close after December 14.</p> <p><u>Large Canada geese:</u> <u>Except in the North Coast Special Management Area, a split season from the first Saturday in October for a period of 5 days and concurrent with the general goose season.</u></p>	<p>Daily bag limit: 8</p> <p>Daily bag limit may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 white geese. • 6 dark geese which may include <u>but not more than 4</u> white-fronted geese EXCEPT in the Sacramento Valley Special Management Area where only 2 may be white-fronted geese (see definitions: 502(a)). <p>Possession limit: double the daily bag limit.</p>
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(D) Special Management Areas

Area	Species	Season
1. North Coast	All Canada Geese	<p>From the first Saturday in November extending for a period of 86 days (Regular Season) and from the third Saturday<u>Sunday</u> in February extending for a period of 19 days (Late Season). During the Late Season, hunting is not permitted on public areas.</p> <p>Daily bag limit: 6 Canada Geese of which only 1 may be a Large Canada goose (see definitions: 502(a)), EXCEPT during the Late Season the bag limit on Large Canada geese is zero.</p> <p>Possession limit: double the daily bag limit.</p>
2. Humboldt Bay South Spit	All species	Closed during brant season.

3. Sacramento Valley	White-Fronted Geese	Open concurrently with the goose season through December 14, and during Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days. Daily bag limit: 2 white-fronted geese. Possession limit: double the daily bag limit.
4. Morro Bay	All species	Open in designated area only from the opening day of brant season through the remainder of waterfowl season.
5. Martis Creek Lake	All species	Closed until November 16.
6. Northern Brant	Black Brant	From the first Saturday in November <u>7</u> extending for 30 days. Daily bag limit: 2 Possession limit: double the daily bag limit.
7. Balance of State Brant	Black Brant	From the second Saturday in November extending for 30 days. Daily bag limit: 2 Possession limit: double the daily bag limit.
8. Imperial County	White geese	From the first Saturday in November extending for a period of 86 days (Regular Season) and from the second Saturday in February extending for 16 days (Late Season). During the Late Season, hunting is not permitted on public areas. Daily bag limit: 6 Possession limit: double the daily bag limit.

(e) Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days Regulations (NOTE: To participate in these Youth Waterfowl Hunts, federal regulations require that hunters must be 15 years of age or younger and must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult 18 years of age or older

~~Youth hunters must be 15 years of age or younger and must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult 18 years of age or older.)~~

(1) Statewide Provisions.

(A) Species	(B) Season	(C) Daily Bag Limit
Ducks (including Mergansers), American Coot, Common Moorhen, Black Brant, Geese	<p>1. Northeastern California Zone: The Saturday fourteen days before the opening of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.</p> <p>2. Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone: The Saturday following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.</p> <p>3. Southern California Zone: The Saturday following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.</p> <p>4. Colorado River Zone: The Saturday following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.</p> <p>5. Balance of State Zone: The Saturday following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.</p>	Same as regular season.

(f) Falconry Take of Ducks (including Mergansers), Geese, American Coots, and Common Moorhens.

(1) Statewide Provisions

(A) Species	(B) Season	(C) Daily Bag and Possession Limits
Ducks (including Mergansers), Geese, American Coot and Common Moorhen	1. Northeastern California Zone. Open concurrently with duck season extending for 105 days.	<p>Daily bag limit: 3</p> <p>Daily bag limit makeup:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Either all of 1 species or a mixture of species allowed for take. <p>Possession limit: 6</p>

	<p>2. Balance of State Zone. Open concurrently with duck season extending for 107 days, except in the North Coast Special Management Area where the falconry season for geese runs concurrently with the season for Small Canada geese (see 502(d)(5)(D)1.)</p> <p>3. Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone. Open concurrently with duck season and February 1-3, 2010<u>January 31, 2011 – February 2, 2011.</u> Goose hunting in this zone by means of falconry is not permitted.</p> <p>4. Southern California Zone. Open concurrently with duck season extending for 107 days, except in the Imperial County Special Management Area where the falconry season for geese runs concurrently with the season for white geese.</p>	
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	<p>5. Colorado River Zone. Concurrent with duck season and from February 1-4, 2010 <u>and from January 31, 2011 – February 3, 2011.</u> Goose hunting in this zone by means of falconry is not permitted. Federal regulations require that California's hunting regulations conform to those of Arizona, where goose hunting by means of falconry is not permitted.</p>	
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NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 202 and 355, Fish and Game Code. Reference:
Sections 202, 355 and 356, Fish and Game Code.